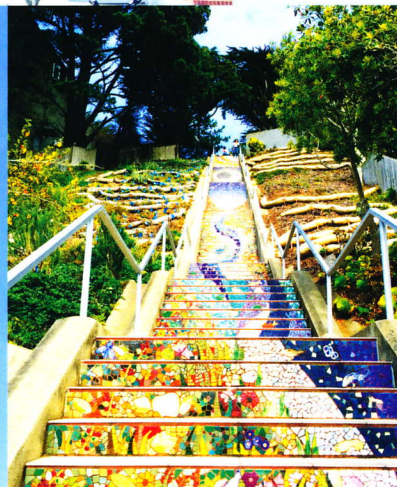




MARIE-JOËLLE PARENT

300

REASONS TO LOVE
SAN FRANCISCO



• RESTAURANTS • COFFEE SHOPS • COCKTAIL AND WINE BARS • BRUNCHS •
PIZZAS • BEAUTIFUL VIEWS • STAIRWAYS • CHARACTERS AND MANY MORE!

Preserving the Internet

22 On Funston Avenue in the Richmond District, not far from the Presidio, stands a large white neo-classical church with Corinthian columns. Behind the brass double doors of this building (a former Christian Science Church) is a very special library: the **Internet Archive**.

This nonprofit organization is dedicated to archiving the Web. The monumental task was started more than 20 years ago by computer scientist Brewster Kahle, an MIT graduate who made his fortune selling computer systems. Inspired by the greatest library of antiquity, Kahle wanted to create the Library of Alexandria, version 2.0.

The Internet Archive is the strangest spot I've visited in San Francisco. The church pews and altar on the second floor have been preserved; the pews are occupied by one hundred 35-inch (90-centimeter) statues of the organization's employees. Hard drives

piled as high as the ceiling give off an audible hum. The constantly flashing servers contain data from more than 480 billion web pages. The system is known as the Wayback Machine, and it stores and indexes everything found on the Web (the average lifespan of a web page is 70 days before it's changed). You can consult older versions of websites dating back to the early days of the Internet. Two to three million users consult the site every day. To ensure that data is protected, copies of the servers are kept in Egypt, Amsterdam and outside of Oakland.

In the basement, a team of more than 50 engineers, programmers, archivists and volunteers are busy scanning and archiving an immense collection of books, films, songs and television and radio programs. Teams in eight other countries are at work on the same task. To date, more than three million books in 184 languages have been digitized. Brewster Kahle will be 60 years old in 2020. His goal is to have enough books archived to be able to educate a child until adulthood at no cost. You can visit the library on Fridays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. You may even be lucky enough to have Kahle himself as your guide [300 Funston Ave.].

Diner of Local Heros

23 **Bill's Place** opened in 1959, and the diner has become a neighborhood institution. Its hamburgers are named after local stars, like the famous *San Francisco Chronicle* journalist Herb Caen and Jefferson Airplane guitarist Paul Kantner, and are served with a generous portion of french fries. The kitsch decor hasn't changed since the 1950s [2315 Clement St.].

